

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for analyzing software application needs of a business entity to determine whether to remove an entity software application, comprising the steps of:

inventorying a set of entity software applications that are currently used by the business entity, wherein the business entity is a banking entity;

formulating a set of questions related to the entity software application based on a business and information technology strategy corresponding to the business entity, wherein the business strategy includes business objectives and priorities, wherein the set of questions are tailored to assess the software application needs of the business entity and to measure how well the entity software application is meeting the software application needs, wherein the priorities include one of: maximizing world wide web sales, providing customer access to data, and complying with data privacy regulations, wherein the questions are directed to investigate the business entity's topology, a number and type of user of the application, technical support given an application, and standards that apply to the application;

weighting possible responses to the set of questions based on the business strategy of the business entity, wherein the weighting comprises assigning a value for each

possible response to the set of questions, and wherein there are at least three possible responses to the question in the set of questions;

receiving entity responses to the set of questions; and

determining, based on the entity responses, whether to remove the entity software application.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of analyzing the received responses to make a set of recommendations.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a report based on the received entity responses.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the entity software applications are grouped by business process.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for analyzing software application needs of a business entity to determine whether to remove an entity software application, comprising the steps of:

inventorying a set of entity software applications that are currently used by the business entity, wherein the business entity is a banking entity;

formulating a set of questions related to the entity software application based on a business and information technology strategy corresponding to the business entity, wherein the business strategy includes business objectives and priorities, wherein the priorities include one of: maximizing world wide web sales, providing customer access to data, and complying with data privacy regulations, wherein the questions are directed to investigate the business entity's topology, a number and type of user of the application, technical support given an application, and standards that apply to the application;

weighting possible responses to the set of questions based on the business strategy of the business entity, wherein the weighted responses are formulated by assigning a value to each possible response to the set of questions, and wherein there are at least three possible responses to the question in the set of questions;

receiving entity responses to the set of questions; and

analyzing the entity responses to make a set of recommendations.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of generating a report based on the entity responses.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the report includes the recommendations.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the set of recommendations is made by analyzing values corresponding to the entity responses.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein analyzing values comprises comparing the values corresponding to the entity responses to a predetermined value.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for analyzing software application needs of a business entity to determine whether to remove an entity software application, comprising the steps of:

inventorying a set of entity software applications that are currently used by the business entity, wherein the business entity is a banking entity;

formulating a set of questions and possible responses related to the entity software application based on a business and information technology strategy corresponding to the business entity, wherein the business strategy includes business objectives and priorities, wherein the priorities include one of: maximizing world wide web sales, providing customer access to data, and complying with data privacy regulations, wherein the

questions are directed to investigate the business entity's topology, a number and type of user of the application, technical support given an application, and standards that apply to the application;

weighting the possible responses for each question with an assigned value based on the business strategy of the business entity, and wherein there are at least three possible responses to the question in the set of questions;

receiving entity responses to the set of questions;

analyzing values corresponding to the entity responses to determine whether to remove the entity software application; and

making a set of recommendations based on the analysis.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the set of recommendations is selected from the group consisting of: eliminating the entity software application, modifying the entity software application, adding a new application, or switching between applications.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the analysis is made by comparing values corresponding to the entity responses to predetermined values.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for analyzing software application needs of a business entity to determine whether to remove an entity software application, comprising:

an inventory system for inventorying entity software applications that are currently used by the business entity, wherein the business entity is a banking entity;

a query system for providing a set of questions and weighted responses related to the entity software application in the inventory system, wherein the set of questions and weighted responses are formulated based on a business and information technology strategy corresponding to the business entity, and wherein the set of questions are tailored to assess the software application needs of the business entity and to measure how well the entity software application is meeting the software application needs, and wherein there are at least three possible responses to the question in the set of questions, wherein the business strategy includes business objectives and priorities, wherein the priorities include one of: maximizing world wide web sales, providing customer access to data, and complying with data privacy regulations, wherein the questions are directed to investigate the business entity's topology, a number and type of user of the application, technical support given an application, and standards that apply to the application; and

a review system for analyzing entity responses to the set of questions to determine whether to remove the entity software application.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising an examination system for receiving the entity responses.

18. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the query system formulates the set of questions and weighted responses based on the business strategy.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the query system retrieves the set of questions and weighted responses from a database.

20. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the review system compares values corresponding to the entity responses to a predetermined value.

21. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising a recommendation system for making recommendations based on the entity responses.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for analyzing software application needs of a business entity to determine whether to remove an entity software application, comprising:

an inventory system for inventorying entity software applications that are currently used by the business entity, wherein the business entity is a banking entity;

a query system for providing a set of questions and weighted responses related to the entity software application in the inventory system, wherein the set of questions and weighted responses are formulated based on a business and information technology strategy corresponding to the business entity, wherein the query system formulates the set of questions and weighted responses based on the business strategy, and wherein there are at least three possible responses to the question in the set of questions, wherein the business strategy includes business objectives and priorities, wherein the priorities include one of: maximizing world wide web sales, providing customer access to data, and complying with data privacy regulations, wherein the questions are directed to investigate the business entity's topology, a number and type of user of the application, technical support given an application, and standards that apply to the application;

an examination system for receiving entity responses to the set of questions;

a review system for analyzing values corresponding to the entity responses to determine whether to remove the entity software application; and

a recommendation system for making a set of recommendations based on the analyzed values.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the query system retrieves the set of questions and weighted responses from a database.

25. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the review system compares values corresponding to the entity responses to a predetermined value.

26. (Currently Amended) A program product stored on a recordable medium for analyzing software application needs of a business entity to determine whether to remove an entity software application, which when executed, comprises:

an inventory system for inventorying entity software applications that are currently used by the business entity, wherein the business entity is a banking entity;

a query system for providing a set of questions and weighted responses related to the entity software application in the inventory system, wherein the set of questions and weighted responses are formulated based on a business and information technology strategy corresponding to the business entity, wherein the query system formulates the set of questions and weighted responses based on the business strategy, and wherein there are at least three possible responses to the question in the set of questions, wherein the business strategy includes business objectives and priorities, wherein the priorities include one of: maximizing world wide web sales, providing customer access to data, and complying with data privacy regulations, wherein the questions are directed to investigate the business entity's topology, a number and type of user of the application, technical support given an application, and standards that apply to the application; and

a review system for analyzing entity responses to the set of questions to determine whether to remove the entity software application.

27. (Original) The program product of claim 26, further comprising an examination system for receiving the entity responses.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Original) The program product of claim 26, wherein the review system compares values corresponding to the entity responses to a predetermined value.

30. (Original) The program product of claim 26, further comprising a recommendation system for making recommendations based on the entity responses.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer system for analyzing software application needs of a business entity to determine whether to remove an entity software application, comprising:

a processor;

a computer system memory;

an interface; and

a software product stored on the computer system memory and executable by the processor, wherein the software product comprises:

an inventory system for inventorying entity software applications that are currently used by the business entity, wherein the business entity is a banking entity;

a query system for providing a set of questions and weighted responses related to the entity software application in the inventory system, wherein the set of questions and weighted responses are formulated based on a business and information technology strategy corresponding to the business entity, wherein the query system formulates the set of questions and weighted responses based on the business strategy, and wherein there are at least three possible responses to the question in the set of questions, wherein the business strategy includes business objectives and priorities, wherein the priorities include one of: maximizing world wide web sales, providing customer access to data, and complying with data privacy regulations, wherein the questions are directed to investigate the business entity's topology, a number and type of user of the application, technical support given an application, and standards that apply to the application; and

a review system for analyzing entity responses to the set of questions to determine whether to remove the entity software application.

32. (Original) The computer system of claim 31, further comprising an examination system for receiving the entity responses.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Original) The computer system of claim 31, wherein the review system compares values corresponding to the entity responses to a predetermined value.

35. (Original) The computer system of claim 31, further comprising a recommendation system for making recommendations based on the entity responses.